

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A filter for use in engines or transmissions, comprising:

an inlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said inlet-side cover, wherein said inlet-side cover further comprises at least one inlet-side filter media support, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said inlet-side cover;

an outlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said outlet-side cover, wherein said outlet-side cover wave-like region is in a generally complementary alignment with said inlet-side cover wave-like region, wherein said outlet-side cover further comprises at least one outlet-side filter media support, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said outlet-side cover, wherein the inlet-side filter media support aligns with the outlet-side filter media support; and

a filter media fixed in a non-planar configuration between said wave-like regions of said inlet-side and outlet-side covers.

- 2 – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover further comprises media retention means disposed along the periphery of said inlet-side cover.

6. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said outlet-side cover further comprises media retention means disposed along the periphery of said outlet-side cover.
7. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover further comprises media retention means disposed along the periphery of said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side cover further comprises media retention means disposed along the periphery of said outlet-side cover.
8. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover further comprises a crimp rib disposed along said wave-like region of said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side cover further comprises a crimp recess disposed along said wave-like region of said outlet-side cover.
9. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover further comprises a crimp rib disposed along the periphery of said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side cover further comprises a crimp recess disposed along the periphery of said outlet-side cover.
10. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side and outlet-side covers are joined by a single joining operation.
11. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover is thermoplastic.
12. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said outlet-side cover is thermoplastic.

13. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side covers are thermoplastic.

14. (Original) The filter of claim 1, wherein said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side covers are thermoplastic and joined by a single plastic-to-plastic bonding operation.

15. (Currently Amended) A filter for use in engines or transmissions, comprising:

an inlet-side cover having alternating convex and concave regions along the periphery of said inlet-side cover, wherein said inlet-side cover further comprises at least one inlet-side filter media support, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said inlet-side cover;

an outlet-side cover having alternating convex and concave regions along the periphery of said outlet-side cover which are in complementary alignment with said convex and concave regions of said inlet-side cover, wherein said outlet-side cover further comprises at least one outlet-side filter media support, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said outlet-side cover, wherein the inlet-side filter media support aligns with the outlet-side filter media support; and

a filter media fixed in a wave-like configuration between said alternating convex and concave regions of said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side cover.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The filter of claim 15, ~~wherein said outlet side cover further comprises at least one outlet side filter media support disposed within said outlet side cover,~~ wherein said at least one outlet-side filter media support includes an alternating convex and concave region.

18. (Currently Amended) The filter of claim 15, ~~wherein said outlet side cover further comprises at least one outlet side filter media support disposed within said outlet side cover,~~ wherein said at least one outlet-side filter media support includes an alternating convex and concave region in alignment with said alternating convex and concave region along the periphery of said outlet-side cover.

19. (Currently Amended) The filter of claim ~~18~~ 15, ~~wherein said inlet side cover further comprises at least one inlet side filter media support disposed within said inlet side cover,~~ wherein said at least one inlet-side filter media support lines up with said at least one outlet-side filter media support.

20. (Currently Amended) A filter for use in engines or transmissions, comprising:

an inlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said inlet-side cover and one or more inlet-side media supports, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said inlet-side cover;

an outlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said outlet-side cover and outlet-side media supports, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within said outlet-side cover, wherein said outlet-side cover wave-like region is

complementary in shape and alignment with the periphery of said inlet-side cover wave-like region, wherein the inlet-side filter media support aligns with the outlet-side filter media support;

and

a filter media fixed in a wave-like configuration between said wave-like regions of said inlet-side cover and said outlet-side cover.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The filter of claim 20, wherein said inlet-side media supports and said outlet-side media supports are sized so that a gap is created between said inlet-side and said outlet-side media supports when the filter is assembled.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for filtering a fluid in engines or transmissions, comprising:
retaining a filter media sealingly between an inlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said inlet-side cover and an outlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said outlet-side cover; and
passing the fluid through said filter media to filter the fluid.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for assembling a filter for engines or transmissions comprising:
providing an inlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said inlet-side cover;
providing an outlet-side cover having a wave-like region along the periphery of said outlet-side cover; and

providing a filter media sealingly fixed in a non-planar configuration between said wave-like regions of said inlet-side and outlet-side covers.

25. (Currently Amended) A filter for use in engines or transmissions, comprising:

an inlet-side cover means having a wave-like region along the periphery of said inlet-side cover means, wherein said inlet-side cover means further comprises at least one inlet-side filter media support means, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said inlet-side cover means;

an outlet-side cover means having a wave-like region along the periphery of said outlet-side cover means, wherein said outlet-side cover means further comprises at least one outlet-side filter media support means, separate from said wave-like region along the periphery, disposed within the periphery of said outlet-side cover means, wherein the inlet-side filter media support means aligns with the out-let side filter media support means; and

a filter media means sealingly fixed in a non-planar configuration between said wave-like regions of said inlet-side cover means and said outlet-side cover means.

26. (New) The filter of claim 1, wherein the inlet-side filter media support comprises one or more media support fingers and media support recesses.

27. (New) The filter of claim 1, wherein the outlet-side filter media support comprises one or more media support fingers and media support recesses.

28. (New) The filter of claim 1, wherein the inlet-side filter media support comprises one or more media support fingers and media support recesses, wherein the outlet-side filter media support comprises one or more media support fingers and media support recesses, wherein the inlet-filter media support and the outlet-side filter support are complementary with each other such that the filter media is secured between the inlet-side filter media support and the outlet-side filter media support.

29. (New) The filter of claim 15, wherein the filter media is secured between the inlet-side filter media support and the outlet-side filter media support.

30. (New) The filter of claim 20, wherein the filter media is secured between the inlet-side filter media support and the outlet-side filter media support.